Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

--1–7. (canceled)

1 8. (previously presented) A method of isolating PrPres, from an organ or a tissue, in particular the spleen or the brain, consisting essentially of:

(i) homogenization of organ or tissue, collected after sacrificing the animal, by mechanical grinding in a homogenization buffer, followed by the addition, to the homogenate obtained, of a salt having a high ionic strength and capable of promoting the aggregation of the PrPres in a 1:1 (v/v) ratio, followed by calibration of the homogenate, for the production of a homogenate comprising, in weight/volume, from 5 to 50% of the said organ or tissue; and

(ii) specific extraction of PrPres by treating the homogenate obtained in step (i) by incubating the suspension obtained with a solution comprising a protease and an anionic detergent capable of promoting the aggregation of the PrPres, and a single separation of the PrPres, by centrifugation at 25,000-60,000 g.h, of the suspension obtained, deposited on a buffer cushion having a density of between 1.02 and 1.08, at 20°C and recovering the centrifugation pellet comprising the said PrPres.

9–11. (canceled)

2 12. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein during the extraction step (ii) the solution used for the extraction comprises an anionic detergent capable of promoting the aggregation of the PrPres and a zwitterionic detergent, in a 1:1 (v/v) ratio.

3 13. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the extraction step (ii) the centrifugation is carried out after depositing the suspension containing the PrPres on a cushion comprising, in a mixture, 6-20% sucrose and a sulphobetaine.

14–15. (canceled)

14 16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the homogenization buffer in step (i) is a neutral buffer selected from the group consisting of water and isotonic buffers.

5 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the isotonic buffer is 5% glucose.

6 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein in step (i), the salt having a high ionic strength is 10-30% NaCl.

7 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein in step (ii), prior to centrifugation, at least one protease inhibitor is added.

8 20. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the anionic detergent is 10-30% sarkosyl.

9 21. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein in step (ii), the centrifugation is carried out after depositing the suspension containing the PrPres on a 6-20% sucrose cushion.

10 22. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein in step (ii) the centrifugation is carried out at 25,000 – 30,000 g for 1 to 2 hours.

11 23. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein in step (ii) the centrifugation is carried out at 16 – 22°C.

12 24. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step consisting essentially of:
purification of the PrPres by suspending the centrifugation pellet obtained in (ii) in a Laemmli buffer comprising 1-5% SDS, incubating in this buffer at 100°C for 2-10 minutes and centrifuging at 12,000-15,000 g for 10-15 minutes at 16-22°C.

13 25. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the zwitterionic detergent is a sulphobetaine.

14 26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the sulphobetaine is the sulphobetaine SB3-14 at 1-2%.--